

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
NEAE-00 /100 W

-----071557Z 102168 /50

P R 071400Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7063
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINCEUR
CINCPAC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USLOSACLANT
USDELMC

S E C R E T ANKARA 2598

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CENTO, NATO, MILI, IR
SUBJECT: NATO-CENTO AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 70897 (DTG 310129Z MAR 77)

1. US ELEMENT CENTO HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON POINTS
RAISED PARA FIVE REFTEL, WITH WHICH THE EMBASSY CONCURS:

2. INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION WITH IRAN
UNDER CENTO AUSPICES AS HITHERTO PRACTICED IS INSUFFICIENT
FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING THE REQUISITE COORDINATION BETWEEN
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NATO AND IRAN IN AIR DEFENSE MATTERS. THIS EXCHANGE MUST
EVENTUALLY BE REGULAR, CONTINUING, AND TIMELY IF THE
INFORMATION PASSED BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED IS TO BE
OF VALUE IN THE REAL-TIME AIR DEFENSE ENVIRONMENT. WHILE
ARMISH MAAG WILL ENSURE THE ADOPTION OF BASIC AIR DEFENSE
PRINCIPLES BY IRANIAN FORCES, REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE DEPENDS
ON ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS RELAY AND DISPLAY OF BOTH ATTACKING

AND DEFENDING FORCES. THIS PRESUMES THE ROUTINE TRANSMISSION OF SUITABLE DATA TO UPDATE COMMAND CENTERS THAT CORRELATE CIVIL AND MILITARY AIR MOVEMENTS, ALERT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES, AND SERVE TO DIRECT THE AIR BATTLE.

3. INASMUCH AS THE TURKISH-IRANIAN BORDER BIFURCATES THE SOVIET BORDER IN THE CAUCASUS, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT NATO'S EASTERN FLANK MIGHT BE IN JEOPARDY IN THE EVENT OF AIR ATTACKS FROM REGIONS IN THE USSR ADJACENT TO IRAN'S ENTIRE NORTHERN BORDER. NATO EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION 1976 HIGHLIGHTED NATO'S RENEWED INTEREST IN EASTERN TURKEY AS A POSSIBLE INVASION CORRIDOR. CENTO PLANNERS HAVE LONG CONSIDERED THE AVENUES OF ATTACK AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIETS IN THIS REGION.

4. ALL CENTO MEMBERS EXCEPT PAKISTAN APPARENTLY DESIRE TO EFFECT A FORMAL AIR DEFENSE EXCHANGE TO OBVIATE THE NECESSITY OF AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES EMANATING FROM THE NORTH. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS DESIRABLE -- IF NOT NECESSARY -- FOR ADJOINING AIR DEFENSE REGIONS (SUCH AS NATO SOC DIYABAKIR IN TURKEY AND IRANIAN SOC HAMADAN) TO BE OPERATING ON THE BASIS OF THE REAL TIME DATA. CLEARLY THE INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE PREVAILED IN THE PAST ARE UNSATISFACTORY FROM ANY REASONABLE MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF THE AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM IN THE REGION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, AIR DEFENSE, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA02598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770121-0926
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770480/aaaacrbz.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26e0c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: 77 STATE 70897
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2876207
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO-CENTO AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT
TAGS: MILI, IR, US, NATO, CENTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26e0c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009